

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A process for the partial or complete separation of a mixture comprising hydrogen chloride and phosgene, ~~possibly solvents and possibly low boilers and inerts as are typically obtained in the preparation of isocyanates by reaction of amines with phosgene,~~ which comprises:

firstly carrying out a partial or complete condensation of phosgene[[,]];

then [[a]] distillation or stripping step in a column to remove the hydrogen chloride from the bottom product phosgene; and

subsequently a scrub of the top product hydrogen chloride by ~~means of the a~~ process solvent to absorb the phosgene in the process solvent.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): [[A]] The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the partial or complete condensation of phosgene is carried out at from -40°C to 40°C and pressures of from 1 to 35 bar, ~~preferably from 3 to 16 bar.~~

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): [[A]] The process as claimed in claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein the distillation to remove hydrogen chloride from phosgene is carried out at a temperature of the bottom of from 5 to 150°C, ~~preferably from 5 to 50°C~~, a pressure at the top of from 1 to 35 bar, ~~preferably from 1.5 to 4.0 bar~~, and a temperature at the top of from -20°C to 30°C, ~~preferably from -10°C to 0°C.~~

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): [[A]] The process as claimed in ~~any of claims 1 to 3~~ claim 1, wherein the hydrogen chloride is removed from the phosgene by stripping with an

inert gas such as nitrogen, process solvent vapor, phosgene or another gaseous or vaporizable substance.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): ~~[[A]] The process as claimed in any of claims 1 to 4~~
claim 1, wherein the absorption or scrub is carried out ~~using~~ by the process solvent.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): ~~[[A]] The process as claimed in any of claims 1 to 5~~
claim 1, wherein the temperature at the top of the absorber is from -40°C to 10°C, preferably from -15°C to 0°C, the temperature at the bottom is from -10°C to 30°C, preferably from 0 to 10°C, and the pressure at the top is 1-35 bar, preferably 1.5-4.0 bar.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): ~~[[A]] The process as claimed in any of claims 1 to 6~~
claim 1, wherein ~~the~~ an absorption medium stream for the absorption has been saturated beforehand with hydrogen chloride and, if desired, the heat of condensation has been removed.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): ~~[[A]] The process as claimed in any of claims 1 to 7~~
claim 1, wherein the heat of condensation of hydrogen chloride and phosgene in the an absorption medium is removed by intermediate cooling in the absorber.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): ~~[[A]] The process as claimed in any of claims 1 to 8~~
claim 1, wherein an after-purification by means of adsorption, preferably on activated carbon, is carried out.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): ~~[[A]] The process as claimed in any of claims 1 to 9~~
claim 1, wherein the scrub is carried out ~~using~~ by chlorobenzene.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): ~~[[A]] The process as claimed in any of claims 1 to 10~~ claim 1, wherein the bottom product phosgene ~~obtained at the bottom of the distillation column or the phosgene solution~~ is recirculated to the reaction section of an isocyanate synthesis.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): ~~A process as claimed in any of claims 1 to 11, wherein the phosgene obtained at the bottom of the distillation column or the phosgene solution is used as~~ A runback in distillation or reaction columns, or as a scrubbing solution for absorbers or scrubbers, comprising the bottom product phosgene as claimed in claim 1.

Claim 13 (Canceled).

Claim 14 (Canceled).

Claim 15 (Currently Amended): ~~[[A]] The process as claimed in any of claims 1 to 14~~ claim 1, wherein the hydrogen chloride obtained is subsequently compressed.

Claim 16 (Currently Amended): ~~[[A]] The process as claimed in any of claims 1 to 15~~ claim 1, wherein the hydrogen chloride obtained is subsequently ~~used for~~ added in a preparation of ethylene dichloride ~~(or vinyl chloride)~~ or ~~for~~ a Deacon process.

Claim 17 (New): The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the mixture further comprises solvents, low boilers, and inert gases obtained in a preparation of isocyanates by reaction of amines with phosgene.

Claim 18 (New): The process as claimed in claim 7, wherein a heat of condensation has been removed.